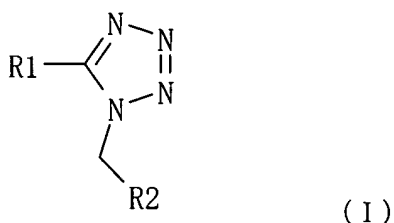


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

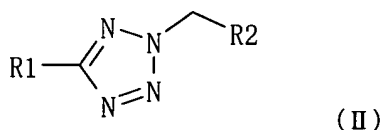
1. (Original) A inhibitor of protein modification products formation comprising a 5-substituted tetrazole ring compound having a methylene-containing group at the 1- or 3-position of the terazole ring in free or salt form as an active ingredient.

2. (Original) The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to claim 1, wherein the compound as the active ingredient is selected from compounds of formula (I);



[wherein R1 and R2 represent each the same or different monovalent organic group] in free or salt form.

3. (Original) The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to clam 1, wherein the compound as the active ingredient is selected from compounds of formula (II);



[wherein R1 and R2 represent each the same or different monovalent organic group] in free or salt form.

4. (Currently Amended) The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~claim~~claim 2 or 3, wherein R1 is an optionally substituted phenyl group and R2 is an optionally substituted heterocyclic group of not more than 10 ring atoms.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~claim~~claim 2 or 3, wherein R1 is an optionally substituted phenyl group and R2 is a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or a hydroxy group.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~claim~~claim 2 or 3, wherein R1 is substituted or unsaturated phenyl group and R2 is morpholino group.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~claim~~claim 2 or 3, wherein R1 is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group and R2 is a 5-methyl-3a,6a-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[1,2,3]triazole-4,6-dione group.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~claim~~claim 2 or 3, wherein R1 is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group and R2 is a hydroxymethyl group.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the protein modification products is selected from AGEs, ALEs and combinations thereof.

10. **(Original)** The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to claim 9, wherein the protein modification products is AGE.

11. **(Original)** The inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to claim 10, wherein AGE is pentosidine.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A renal tissue protecting agent comprising the inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A peritoneal dialysate comprising the inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A hemodialysis fluid comprising the inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the amount of carbonyl compounds in a liquid sample, which comprises contacting said liquid sample with the inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for suppressing the formation of protein modification products in the blood or peritoneal dialysate of a patient, which comprises contacting said blood or peritoneal dialysate with the inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a disease mediated by the formation of protein modification products, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of the inhibitor of protein modification products formation according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

18. (Canceled)